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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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# CHINESE COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY JOIN VIET MINH INVASION OF LAOS

The Chinese Nationalist news agency "China Union Press" states that "two crack regiments" of the Chinese Communist 4th Field Army, commanded by General Chen Tang, have been released to participate in the Viet Minh invasion of Laos. According to the agency, these regiments had been "organized into the Viet Minh 304th Division" after having crossed the border from Yunnan on 16 April. It was also stated that two other Chinese Communist regiments had "swarmed" to the Kwangsi-Indochinese border on 19 and 20 April to join the war.

Comment: Reports of impending Chinese Communist intervention in Indochina are numerous but are still placed in the rumor category. The following considerations also cast doubt on this report: (1) the news agency quoted has a reputation of unreliability; (2) the Viet Minh 304th Division entered Laos through Annam, far south of the Yunnan border some two weeks before 16 April.

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